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Shannon Lee Dawdy Awarded 2010 MacArthur Fellowship

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Shannon Lee Dawdy Awarded 2010 MacArthur Fellowship



Congratulations to Prof. Dawdy for receipt of a MacArthur 'genius' award, and for her excellent work that has addressed the histories of African diasporas in New Orleans and Cuba, among other subjects in historical archaeology.

**From the MacArthur Foundation web site,
<http://www.macfound.org> --**

"The MacArthur Fellowship is a five-year grant to individuals who show exceptional creativity in their work and the prospect for still more in the future. The fellowship is designed to provide recipients with the flexibility to pursue their creative activities in the absence of specific obligations or reporting requirements. . . . The selection decisions focus primarily on exceptional creativity, as demonstrated through a track record of significant achievement, and manifest promise for important future advances. Emphasis is placed on nominees for whom our support would relieve limitations that inhibit them from pursuing their most innovative ideas."

"Shannon Lee Dawdy is an archaeologist and anthropologist who links scholarship with historical preservation to illuminate the history of the Atlantic World since 1450. In addition to work on the Southeast United States and Caribbean, Dawdy has produced insightful studies of New Orleans from its establishment as a French colony to the present day. In *Building the Devil's Empire: French Colonial New Orleans* (2008), she integrates the intellectual life of the community with the story of the adventurers, entrepreneurs, and smugglers who resisted governance, providing a markedly expanded narrative of the colonial dynamics and structure of the region. Her recent fieldwork in New Orleans, concentrating on the former site of the Rising Sun Hotel and St. Antoine's Garden behind St. Louis Cathedral, is the largest archaeological excavation undertaken to date in the French Quarter. These two sites are an important part of her current project: an exploration of the connections between aesthetics and social life. Complementing her academic work, Dawdy has also been a vocal advocate for historical preservation. She served as special liaison between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office to ensure that recovery efforts in New Orleans after

Hurricane Katrina remained cognizant of the city's singular archaeological heritage. Through her boundary-crossing scholarship, fieldwork, and efforts to engage the public in uncovering the history of their communities, Dawdy is enriching the arenas of historical archaeology and urban preservation. . . . She is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters, as well as co-editor of *Dialogues in Cuban Archaeology* (2005) and *Dumont de Montigny: Regards sur le monde atlantique, 1715–1747* (2008)."